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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,472	04/26/2001	Kunio Yamamoto	13425.10US01	7989
23552	7590	06/02/2005	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			TO, BAOQUOC N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2162	

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/842,472

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Baoquoc N. To

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Request For Continued Examination

1. The request filed on 11/23/2004 for a Requested For Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/842,472 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is amended in amendment filed on 11/23/2004.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kida (US. Patent No. 5,907,829) in view of Nicholas et al. (US. Patent No. 5,423,457).

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Regarding on claim 1, Kida teaches a man-hour management system which manages man-hours for producing automobiles, comprising:

A server, a database (work storage) (col. 3, lines 10-15), connection terminals and an Ethernet (communication means 8) (col. 3, lines 10-15);

Said database comprising:

a walk man-hour conversion table for performing registration management of standardized man-hours for walks which are generated by works (col. 4, lines 54-56);

a work constituent condition table for performing registration management of constituent work CW (element work) for use in managing the man-hours, and having conditions for each of the constituent work CW (col. 9, lines 41-43);

a standardized man-hour table for performing registration management of standardized man-hour analysis contents and standardized man-hours for the constituent work CW (element work) or the constituent work CW (element work) conditions which are under the registration management of said work constituent condition table (col. 9, lines 41-63);

a main man-hour management table for managing item data for constituent works in process units and for performing registration management and/or reorganization management of constituent work CW (element work) items in units of processes, data being assigned to the constituent work CW (element work) items from said walk man-hour conversion table, said work constituent condition table and said standardized man-hour table, or data being inputted and set to the constituent work CW (element work) items (col. 3, lines 32-67 and col.. 4, lines 1-36);

a process name table (work name) for performing registration management and/or reorganization management of names of the processes (col. 3, lines 37-38); and

man-hour output means including a man-hour system program, a timing graph output program, a process balancing table output program, an individual-process specification aggregation table output program, a history management output program, and a main man-hour management output program, for outputting man-hour information by being assigned data from said main man-hour management table and said process name table (col. 9, lines 10-15 and col. 7, lines 47-50).

Nida does not teach a net & loss aggregation table output program. However, Nicholas teaches a net & loss aggregation table output program (col. 7, lines 57-68 and col. 8, lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Kida's system to include a net & loss aggregation table output program as taught by Nicholas in order to minimize the lost time for each job.

Regarding on claim 2, Kida teaches a change history table for performing save management of work change contents in units of the processes; wherein said man-hour output means outputs the man-hour information by being assigned data also from said change history table (col. 9, lines 10-15).

Regarding on claim 3, Kida teaches a timing graph data table for performing registration management of data of a timing graph, data being assigned to said timing graph data table from said main man-hour management table; wherein said man-hour

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output means outputs the man-hour information by being assigned data also from said timing graph data table (col. 7, lines 47-50).

Regarding on claim 4, Kida teaches a line name table for performing registration management of modes of lines which implement works; wherein said main man-hour management table is assigned data also from said line name table (col. 3, lines 37-38).

Regarding on claim 5, Kida teaches a series table for performing registration management of series and types associated with the series; wherein said main man-hour management table is assigned data also from said series table (col. 3, lines 32-67 and col.. 4, lines 1-36).

Regarding on claim 6, Kida teaches a derivation table for performing registration management of derivatives associated with each of the series and the types; wherein said main man-hour management table is assigned data also from said derivation table (col. 4, lines 9-16).

Regarding on claim 7, Kida teaches a database in which the tables are stored (); and series data backup means for extracting the data of said tables in series units as have become unnecessary, from said database, and for re-storing said data of said tables extracted in series units, in said database (fig. 6).

Regarding on claim 8, Kida teaches the constituent work (element work) has its each movement classified into one of a main action, a supplemental action and a quasi action, and standardized man-hours analyzed are set for said each movement (fig. 3).

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Baoquoc N. To whose telephone number is (703) 305-1949 or via e-mail BaoquocN.To@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached at (703) 305-9790.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231.


The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follow:

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Park II
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202
Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Baoquoc N. To
May 25, 2005


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER